

Journal Writing: Theory of Knowledge

What's the deal with journals? Why do I need to bother?

1. The informality and privacy of a journal entry encourage risk-taking and the creation of new ideas while simultaneously encouraging the connection across ideas.
2. A journal offers you an invaluable space in which to practice using your ToK concepts and a forum in which to demonstrate your ToK understanding.

Things to remember:

*Journaling is a process. You might not be stellar right out of the gate! Have patience with yourself (uhm... and with me)... you'll get it, but it seems to click at different rates for different students.

*If you have questions about your grade or your journal-writing process, please let me know. The only one who can help you understand what I'm looking for is me (brilliant, I know).

Grading Criteria:

Criteria	5	4	3/2	1
Depth of Thought— <i>the degree to which you stretch your point (ideally, its fullest potential)</i>	Interprets, analyzes and describes new insight(s) not considered before	Interprets and/or analyzes an issue, offers little new insight	Little interpretation and analysis of issue (no new insight is offered)	Does not interpret, analyze or include/describe new insight
Critical Thinking— <i>address modes of critical thinking</i>	Identifies assumptions underlying the issue, problem, or point of view Sees beneath the surface to less obvious impacts Sees implications of alternative responses to a situation or problem Explains an issue from unique or multiple perspectives	Uses some elements of critical thinking. Student might address three of four or might not address all four fully and completely.	Uses one mode of critical thinking, but not carefully or thoroughly; has some illogical reasoning	Uses none of the modes of critical thinking
Required Pieces— <i>Knowledge Question and WoK or AoK present</i>	Strong conceptual understanding of key ToK elements. The KI, AoK and WoK are incorporated with purpose and explained to the appropriate	Student shows understanding of cornerstone ToK elements—elements are incorporated and explained (not necessarily to the appropriate	ToK cornerstones are thrown in (to meet the requirement) but with little or no purpose. Elements are underdeveloped and/or under-	Required elements missing and/or incorporation not attempted
Theory of Knowledge— <i>incorporation of theory of knowledge conceptual understanding</i>	Effectively incorporates ToK concepts (and vocabulary) with confidence. Expert understanding of conceptual knowledge is evident through explanation and evidence in journal entry	Incorporates ToK concepts and vocabulary with some confidence. Understanding of conceptual knowledge is evident but students is not completely sure of use (or concepts not used where/when should	Few concepts integrated into journal entry; little to no understanding of conceptual knowledge evidenced.	No concepts integrated into entry. No [apparent] understanding of ToK concepts.
Length	Student goes above and beyond to ensure that length requirements are met/exceeded	Long enough to get the job done (but nothing extra)	Lacks development & explanation (i.e. not long enough to get the job done)	Falls far short of an acceptable length (1/2 or less)